

## Message Text

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66

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01

/138 W

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R 020145Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7145

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12669

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, JA, CH

SUBJ: JAPAN-CHINA AVIATION

SUMMARY: LDP GROUP LED BY DIET MEMBER NADAO REPORTEDLY LEFT FOR TAIPEI SEPTEMBER 30 AT REQUEST OF FONMIN OHIRA TO SOUND OUT ROC OFFICIALS ON CHANGING NAME OF CHINA AIRLINES, REMOVING RYX# CAL AIRCRAFT, AND SUSPENDING FLIGHTS TO OSAKA. FONOFF SOURCE SAID TWO PRINCIPAL PRC CONDITIONS RE AIRLINE AGREEMENT WERE CHANGE IN NAME OF CHINA AIRLINES AND SOME ACTION ON JAPAN'S PART TO RECOGNIZE PRIORITY OF JAPAN-PEKING ROUTE TO TAIPEI. FONOFF SOURCE NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR EARLY CONCLUSION OF AVIATION AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. NUMBER OF RECENT PRESS REPORTS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THERE IS NEW MOVEMENT IN LONG STALLED JAPAN-PRC AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING ONE REPORT, JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO PEKING, OGAWA, WHO RETURNED TO PEKING RECENTLY FROM CONFERENCE OF ASIAN AMBASSADORS IN TOKYO, TOOK WITH HIM NEW GOJ PROPOSAL ON AVIATION AGREEMENT. MASAKI SAITO  
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OF FONOFF CHINA DIV. DENIED REPORT. SAITO SAID

OGAWA HAD HAD TALKS ON AVIATION ISSUE WITH NUMBER OF SENIOR GOJ OFFICIALS DURING HIS STAY IN TOKYO; HOWEVER, NO DEFINITE CONCLUSIONS OR PLANS FOR ANY CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO PRC HAD EMERGED.

2. ON OTHER HAND, SAITO SAID THAT 66 MEMBER LDP JAPAN-ROC DIET DISCUSSION COUNCIL, HEADED HIROKISHI NADAO, WOULD VISIT TAIWAN BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 30. ADDED THAT REPORTS PROBABLY CORRECT THAT GROUP WOULD SOUND OUT ROC OFFICIAL SON CHANING NAME OF CHINA AIRLINES, REMOVING FLAG FROM CAL'S AIRCRAFT, AND SUSPENSION OF CAL'S FLIGHTS INTO OSAKA AT REQUEST FONMIN OHIRA. NADAO WILL REPORTEDLY HAVE TALKS WITH VICE PRESIDENT YEN CHIA-KAN, PRIME MINISTER CHANG CHING-KUO AND OTHERS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO WHETHER ABOVE WERE IN FACT CONDITIONS PRC NOW SOUGHT IN ORDER CONCLUDE AVIATION AGREEMENT, SAITO SAID SITUATION SOMEWHAT CONFUSING BECAUSE PRC OFTEN SHIFTED ITS DEMANDS. ORIGINALLY, SAITO SAID, PRC HAD INSISTED THAT CAL AND CAAC PLANES COULD NOT BE SIDE BY SIDE AT SAME AIRPORT. THEN, PRC HAD SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH SOMETHING MIGHT BE WORKED OUT WHERE PLANES WERE NOT SIDE BY SIDE, GROUND CREWS FROM TWO AIRLINES WOULD INEVITABLY COME INTO CONTACT; THEREFORE, CAL AND CAAC SHOULD USE SEPARATE AIRPORTS. NOW PRC SEEMS TO HAVE DROPPED THOSE PREVIOUS DEMANDS AND IS MAINTAINING THAT CHINA AIRLINES SHOULD CHANGE ITS NAME, SO THAT NAME DOES NOT INCLUDE WORD QTE CHINA UNQTE AND SHOULD REMOVE ITS FLAG FROM ALL CAL AIRCRAFT.

4. ACCORDING SAITO, OTHER MAJOR CONDITION AT THIS POINT IS THAT JAPAN SHOULD QTE TAKE SOME ACTION UNQTE TO RECOGNIZE THAT TOKYO-PEKING ROUTE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN TOKYO-TAIPEI ROUTE. SAITO ADDED THAT PRC HAS LEFT IT TO JAPAN TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO MEET THIS CONDITION. (PRESS HAS SPECULATED THAT DUMMY JAPANESE AIRLINE TO SERVE TAIPEI ROUTE WOULD HAVE TO BE SET UP IN ORDER TO MEET THIS CONDITION. SAITO, HOWEVER, HAS CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED IN PAST THAT FOR SAFETY REASONS ALONE, GOJ COULD NEVER AGREE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF DUMMY AIRLINE TO

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SERVE TAIPEI.) EMBOFF THEN ASKED IF PRC WERE REQUESTING SUSPENSION OF CAL FLIGHTS INTO OSAKA. SAITO CONFIRMED THAT THIS IS THE CASE, BUT INDICATED THAT SOMETHING COULD PROBABLY BE WORKED OUT ON OSAKA ISSUE, IF OTHER TWO PRC DEMANDS COULD BE ACCOMMODATED.

5. SAITO CONCLUDED THAT HE NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT EARLY SOLUTION TO JAPAN-PRC IMPASSE, PARTICULARLY SINCE

PRC SEEMED TO BE IN NO HURRY TO CONCLUDED AGREEMENT.

INGERSOLL

NOTE BY OCT: #AS RECEIVED, WILL SERVICE UPON REQUEST.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18-Dec-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** ETRN, PFOR, JA, CH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005